Great Salt Lake City Feby 19. 1855

Rev.d Charles Howard Malcom,

Cor: Sec: of Soc: of Inquiry of Princeton,

Theological Seminary.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of Nov.r 25th 1854 came duly to hand on the 6th instant, in which you express a desire to obtain correct information in regard to our numbers, missionary operations, religious views, sentiments &c:

. merely remarking that we always feel gratified to give those who really desire it, True information concerning ourselves, instead of being misrepresented to the world, as we usually are, by the Public Prints. I proceed to answer your enquiries, in the order & order in which they stand.

1st Question. About what number are there now of your denomination at Salt Lake?

Answer. I presume that you mean by Salt Lake our number in this Territory; as there are many other settlements in this Territory, besides Salt Lake; composed principally of our people; with this view in mind. I should judge that our society in this Territory numbered about thirty thousand.

2d. Question. About how many Missionaries have you in Europe?

Answer. of American Elders, we have some fifty, besides many hundred Native Elders - We also have Missionaries in Asia, Africa, Australia, and the other Pacific Isles.

3rd Question. Does your Church regard the Book of Mormon inspired?

Answer. So far as it purports to be, we do.

4th Question. How are your Ministers inducted into office?

Answer. Joseph Smith Junr, was ordained an Apostle, and set apart for this Ministry by three of the Apostles of Christ, Peter, James, and John, who were sent to the earth for that purpose - they laid their hands upon his head, and conferred upon him this holy Priesthood, and authority, with the Keys of this New Dispensation - even the dispensation of the fullness of times, and he, Joseph Smith Junr, after having thus received this authority and ministry, conferred it upon others (see Doctrine and Covenants Page 201) It is now done in the same manner, by ordination to the office, to which the Persons are appointed by the imposition of hands, setting them apart to their particular calling, by the authority of the Holy Priesthood, with the blessings thereunto pertaining, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5 Question. Does your Church have a Liturgy?

Answer. They do not.

6 Quest.n. What is your mode of Worship?

Answer. We worship God, our Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, by doing his will and keeping his commandments, In assembling together on the sabbaths, or first day of the week, usually called Sunday, and at other times, by singing, Praying, and Preaching - By administering the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, and other Ordinances of the Gospel.

7 Quest.n. Is repentance and "saving faith," as we use those terms, required for admission into your Church; for the remission of sins?

Answer. Faith and repentance, Baptism, and the Laying on of Hands, by those holding legal authority, for the reception of the Holy Ghost, is required in all cases, but if you understand them as the world usually do, I answer we do not, we consider honesty and obedience necessary to salvation.

If a man never heard, how can he believe, and how can he hear without a Preacher; Faith comes before repentance, it comes also by hearing the word. If when a person does hear the truth and believes it, and is honest enough to obey it, and walk humbly in all its requirements, enduring even unto the end, that person we consider will be saved in the kingdom of God.

Faith and Repentance must result in works of obedience, and faithfullness, in order to constitute saving faith, or entitle any person to salvation, and then only because he loves the Truth for the truths sake, and not simply complying with its requirements for the sake of reward.

The laws of Heavens King are designed for not only the salvation of mankind, in the Celestial Kingdom of our God, but also are calculated to accomplish his salvation, in a Spiritual and temporal sense, in this world. It becomes therefore not only his interest, but his duty, and should be his delight to acquiesce therein. It is essentially the best investment a man can make, both of himself and all that he possesses, to devote all to the Lord, by so doing he consults his temporal and Spiritual interest in time, and also in eternity.

I am aware, that I might amplify upon your question, and say much more, but presuming that you prefer concise and direct answers, I forbear. You can learn further in relation to our views, upon general subjects, by consulting our works, and by applying to Elders John Taylor, New York City; Orson Spencer Cincinnatti or Erastus Snow, Saint Louis. or if you wish it, by making still further enquiries of me - hoping that the foregoing will prove satisfactory, and answer the purpose designed.

Very respectfully Yr Brigham Young